

September 12, 2001

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SEP 17 2001

Carol Hanlon, U.S. Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office (M/S #025)
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

Re: Possible Site Recommendation for Yucca Mountain

Dear Ms. Hanlon:

I am writing to let you know that I am opposed to Yucca Mountain becoming the site for nuclear waste. I believe that this site is very unsafe for the following reasons:

- 1) There is a very real problem of water getting into the repository. It could come into the repository from below or above through the numerous cracks in the rock. This mountain is not dry as the scientists had hoped it would be. It is a very wet mountain. It has been shown that radiation from the past nuclear tests have traveled very quickly through the ground, much more quickly than anyone had ever thought it would travel. Water getting into the repository would have disastrous consequences.
- 2) There was previously some information that satellites had picked up substantial earth movement over a relatively short period of time in the area of Yucca Mountain. There was supposed to be further review of this, but I have not heard anything more about this since. Is the land in this area shifting fairly rapidly? This needs to be determined as it could have a disastrous consequence as well.
- 3) The area is riddled with earthquake faults, and they have been having active earthquakes in this area. This is also an old volcano.
- 4) Science is not perfect. There are numerous scientists that disagree over various positions taken in parts of the study. To be so arrogant to believe that scientists can adequately predict all circumstances that may happen at this site over the next 10,000 years is ludicrous.
- 5) Errors in facts and judgments can be easily made. Look at the report that has come out with numerous errors. How many errors were included in the report that weren't caught? How many errors were in the backup work to make up the report? Generally errors are made in the favor of the person doing the report. The DOE is working diligently to try to get the repository built at Yucca Mountain. Every time they run into a road block, the rules are changed. Originally they were to rely on only the natural barriers of the mountain. Now they must rely on their building expertise, which could be lacking.
- 6) EPA standards should not be weakened and should not be weaker than anywhere else across the U.S. Here's another case of changing the rules to fit the game plan of those in favor of the dump at Yucca Mountain. The EPA standards should not be weakened.
- 7) The advances in technology are most likely going to continue at a fast pace. I understand that there is a type of nuclear energy that is not dangerous. I understand that they can also process the dangerous type of nuclear energy to make it not so dangerous.
- 8) What ever happened to States rights and how did the Federal government get so powerful to be able to shove things down the throats of unwilling States. I don't know of any State that would be willing to take this high level nuclear waste.

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9) If Yucca Mountain is ever opened, with all of the nuclear waste out there now and currently being produced, it would be full in less than 30 years. More nuclear power plants would come on line, causing this time line to be shorter than 30 years. There will have to be an almost immediate search for another new site to store more nuclear waste. If this continues, before long there will be high level nuclear waste repositories all across the U.S., poisoning our environment and that of our children. When will this madness stop.

10) The transportation of nuclear waste can be a real problem, subject to accidents, natural disasters, terrorists, acts of war, etc. You don't think it can happen? Think again.

11) The U.S. government would be required to reimburse all citizens for any decrease in value of their property because of nuclear waste. This applies to the decreased values because of the routes that this nuclear waste travels and because of the storage of nuclear waste. This fact does not mean that I would be interested in taking money in exchange for nuclear waste being stored in Nevada. It is just a fact that I am pointing out. I do not want nuclear waste in Nevada, no matter how much money the Federal government would attempt to pay.

12) Technology and ingenuity in the weapons and ways of war and terrorists are bound to get more sophisticated. Ten thousand years is an awfully long time. How many wars may take place over this period of time? How will technology advance that we can't even possible conceive at this time? Ten thousand years. Here we are in our infancy thinking we know so much. A substantial bomb hitting this filled mountain would be disastrous. How will it be protected? It is a big, easy target.

Do we really want more of this waste and permanent storage facilities for it all over the U.S? No. We need to find less toxic ways to get the energy we need. Having the nuclear waste dump at Yucca mountain is not safe and is totally unacceptable.

Sincerely,



Barbara Hanson
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Las Vegas, NV 89110

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